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**Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council**

**REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1954

**L. A. M. JOHNSTON,**  
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

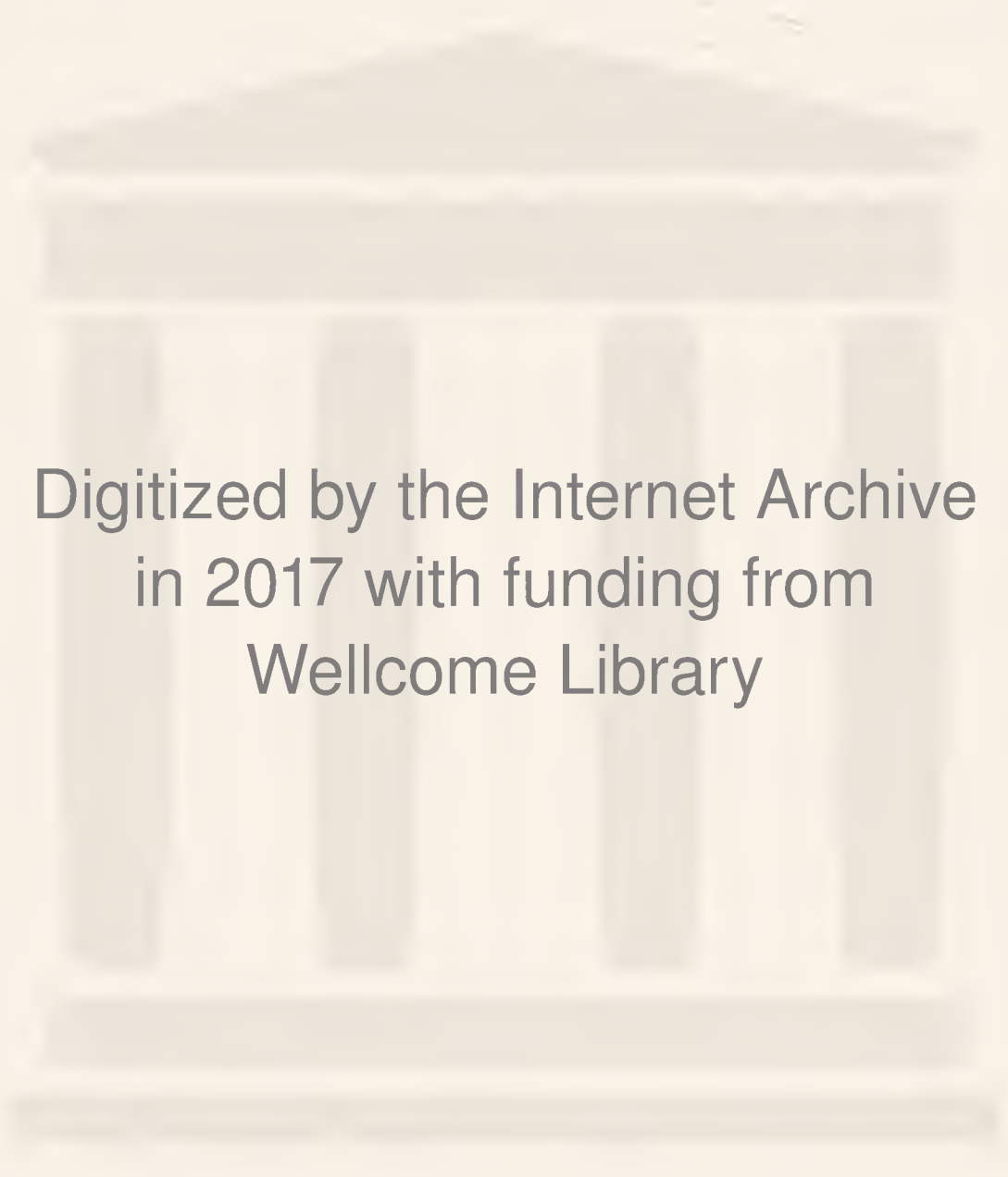


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Public Health Department,  
Houghton-le-Spring.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith present my Eighteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics in the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring for the year 1954. Incorporated therein is the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

It is pleasing to note that the progress of house building by the Council by direct labour continued to make satisfactory progress and a number of houses were erected by private enterprise for owner-occupiers without affecting the number erected by the Council.

I would take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the whole-hearted support of the Council in every endeavour to improve the conditions of the district and prevent disease, and for the loyal co-operation of my colleagues.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.

## Public Health Officers of the Authority.

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The Staff consists of:—

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.** Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews).

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.** Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

**TWO ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTORS.** Whole time. Both hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

**SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER.** Whole time. Fellow of Surveyors' Institute and holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for Hetton and Washington Urban Districts and Assistant Medical Officer for Durham County Council.

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## Other Health Services.

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Domestic Helps
Home Nursing	Health Visitors
Vaccination	Child Welfare and Maternity
Immunisation against	School Medical
Diphtheria	Welfare of the Blind
	Welfare of the Aged.

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

**FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS.** Are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.



**VETERINARY INSPECTORS.** Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for carrying out routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cows.



## **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area**

Area in acres—5,026 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population—mid 1954—30,950.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Books—9,718).

Rateable Value—£128,242.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£484.

Whilst as for many years the chief industry in the Area is that of Coal Mining there are various subsidiary industries, the chief being agriculture, and the district retains its reputation of a comparatively large number of excellent dairy farms. Out of a total number of 23 farms 8 are producing Tuberculin Tested Milk. All other milk produced in the district is heat treated by the Houghton Dairymen's Association before being retailed.

The importance of the production of pure milk and its effect on the Public Health cannot be over emphasised.

General trading and house erection have provided employment for a considerable number of the populace not engaged in mining or agriculture.

Four factories have been erected on a new trading estate at Fence Houses and preparations are well in hand for further development when materials and economic conditions permit.

The four completed are being utilised for the manufacture of (a) suitcases, trunks, etc.; (b) gowns; (c) woodworking machinery; and (d) electrical apparatus—recorder clocks, instruments, etc. A fifth firm is working in Fence Houses Miners' Hall producing gowns and anxiously awaiting the opportunity to occupy a fifth factory when same is available.

## Vital Statistics

### Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1954 was 544 compared with 590 for 1953.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:—

		Total			Male		Female	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	536	271	265	{	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17.57	
		Illegitimate	8	5	3			

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 15.2 for 1954.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births, (2) the number of males born, (3) the number of females born, (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e., the excess of births over deaths) for 1954 as compared with the years 1945—1954.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1945	499	251	248	18.28	189
1946	636	318	318	22.32	298
1947	642	324	318	22.24	339
1948	635	342	293	21.63	313
1949	577	288	289	19.32	229
1950	612	335	277	20.11	266
1951	608	286	322	19.87	268
1952	579	300	279	12.21	249
1953	590	297	293	19.10	253
1954	544	276	268	17.57	180



Still Births—During 1954 there were 14 still births in the district.

		Total Male Female			
Still Births		Legitimate	13	5	8
		Illegitimate	1	1	—

giving a Rate of 25.09 per 1,000 total (live and still births) births

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.45 in the district as compared with 0.36 for England and Wales.

### Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 364 residents in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District died, being 204 males and 160 females.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1954 there were 336 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 122 males and 114 females. Of these 2 males and 3 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 120 males and 111 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 84 males and 49 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 364, and being 204 males and 160 females.

The death rate corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and all ages was 11.76, the population at mid-year 1954 being estimated at 30,950. That for 1953 was 10.90.

### Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1954, 18 children died under the age of five years, as against 17 in 1953. Therefore 4.94 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under five years of age, as against 5.04 per cent. in 1953.

### Deaths in Institutions

Of the 133 residents who died outside the district, 9 died in private houses, 2 in accidents and the remaining 122 died in Institutions as follows:—

General Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	56
Shotley Bridge Hospital	...	...	...	...	2
Royal Infirmary, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	22
Maternity Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	8
Children's Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	4
Boldon Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1
Dryburn Hospital, Durham	...	...	...	...	4
Crossgate Durham	...	...	...	...	1
General Hospital, Ryhope	...	...	...	...	7
Ripon & District Hosp.	...	...	...	...	1
Havelock Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	2
General Hospital West Hartlepool	...	...	...	...	1
Leeholme, Easington	...	...	...	...	6
County Hospital, Durham	...	...	...	...	1
General Hospital, Chester-le-Street	...	...	...	...	5
Victoria Hosp. Blackpool	...	...	...	...	1

8 residents died in Heath House, therefore, of the total of 364 deaths of residents, 130 or 35.71 per cent. occurred in Institutions.

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list.)**

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis or from other puerperal causes.

**Comparison between Houghton-le-Spring and England and Wales.**

	Houghton- le-Spring	England & Wales
Deaths Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.58
Deaths Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from Other Puerperal Causes	0.00	0.11

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

18 children died during 1954 before attaining the age of 1 year, being 8 legitimate males and 9 legitimate females & 1 illegitimate male equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 33.08 (per 1,000 live births).

During 1953 16 children died before attaining one year of age.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1944-1954.

		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1944	...	57.04	...	58.38	...	30.33
1945	...	54.10	...	54.73	...	41.66
1946	...	44.02	...	42.55	...	40.00
1947	...	38.94	...	37.33	...	76.92
1948	...	50.39	...	50.00	...	71.43
1949	...	53.91	...	53.47	...	62.5
1950	...	39.21	...	38.14	...	111.11
1951	...	29.60	...	27.96	...	111.11
1952	...	41.45	...	41.45	...	00.00
1953	...	27.12	...	27.12	...	00.00
1954	...	33.08	...	31.26	...	125.00

Of the 18 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributed to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 7 cases, giving a percentage of 38.88.

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths, under 1 year, during 1954, also the number of deaths at various ages, viz.:— 5 under one day, 3 between two and three days, 2 between three and four days, 1 between five and six days, 2 between seven and fourteen days, 1 between twentyone and twentyeight days, 2 between three and four months and 2 between five and six months.

**Neo-Natal Mortality.**

During 1954 there were:—

5 children who died during the first 24 hours of life.

3 „ died aged 2-3 days.

2 „ „ „ 3-4 „

1 child „ „ 5-6 „

2 children „ „ 7-14 „

1 child „ „ 21-28 „

2 children „ „ 3-4 months.

2 „ „ „ 5-6 „

**Causes of Death of Infants under One Year:—**

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 364, 4.94 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age, 11 or 61.11 per cent. were under one week and 14 or 77.77 per cent. under four weeks of age.

	Nett Live Births—Legitimate		Illegitimate		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Corrected as per Registrar General ...	271	265	5	3	= 544
Nett Deaths ...	9	9	—	—	= 18



During 1954 there were 314 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners (5 of the deceased so certified having post mortems performed on them) 9 deaths were certified by the Coroner after post mortems and inquest, 17 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortems), and 24 were uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward		1st Qtr.		2nd Qtr.		3rd Qtr.		4th Qtr.		Total
Houghton	...	38	...	19	...	27	...	49	...	133
Penshaw	...	24	...	26	...	15	...	29	...	94
Newbottle	...	14	...	10	...	6	...	13	...	43
Fence Houses		20	...	11	...	12	...	22	...	65
Herrington	...	8	...	8	...	2	...	11	...	29
Totals	...	104	...	74	...	62	...	124	...	364

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year		1-5 years.		5-15 years.		15-25 years.		25-45 years.		45-65 years.		65-75 years.		75 years & over.		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Houghton	2	2	...	...	1	...	2	...	2	2	24	11	18	8	38	23	87	46
Penshaw	4	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	8	9	18	14	15	16	48	46
Newbottle	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	8	7	3	4	6	11	20	23
F. Houses	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	7	6	9	7	12	15	33	32
Herrington	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	3	6	3	4	6	...	16	13
Total	9	9	...	...	1	...	4	2	9	6	52	36	54	36	75	71	204	160

During 1954 there were 2 deaths from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).



**Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1954.**

Causes of Death					Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	4	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	10	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	6	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	18	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	37	34
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	32	18
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	9
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	16	22
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	13	5
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	4	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	17	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	3	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	2	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	10	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	13	24
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	4	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	5	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	1	—
All Causes					204	160

**Causes of Death.****(a) Tuberculosis:**

There were 8 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1954, being equivalent to a death rate, per 1,000 population, of 0.25 from the pulmonary form. 0.00 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:—

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Eng and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring	No. of Deaths from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Eng and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring
1944	13	.524	.44	5	.103	.18
1945	14	.519	.51	5	.100	.18
1946	8	not available	.28	2	not available	.07
1947	12	.47	.41	4	.079	.13
1948	15	.44	.51	1	.067	.03
1949	12	.40	.40	2	.054	.06
1950	15	.32	.40	1	.043	.03
1951	4	.27	.13	1	.041	.03
1952	4	.212	.12	0	.028	.00
1953	7	.179	.22	0	.022	.00
1954	8	.160	.25	0	.019	.00

## (b) Heart Disease:

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area, 98 persons, being 49 males, and 49 females, were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 26.49% of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.16 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Table:—

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		M	F		All Causes	Heart Disease	
1944	321	77	38	39	11.84	2.84	23.99
1945	310	98	52	46	11.35	3.22	31.61
1946	338	92	47	45	11.86	3.22	27.22
1947	303	87	45	42	10.49	3.01	28.71
1948	323	110	60	50	11.00	3.61	34.05
1949	348	106	56	50	11.70	3.56	30.40
1950	346	107	54	53	11.4	3.52	30.92
1951	340	97	48	49	11.11	3.17	28.53
1952	348	104	54	50	11.21	3.36	29.88
1953	337	103	44	59	10.90	3.33	30.56
1954	364	98	49	49	11.76	3.16	26.49

## Cancer.

58 deaths—being 34 males and 24 females, were due to cancer according to statistics supplied by the Registrar-General. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 1.87 per 1,000 population or 15.9% of the total deaths. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 2.03.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in Houghton-le-Spring and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1944-1954.

		Number of Deaths				Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.	
		Male	Female	Total			
1944	...	17	...	22	...	39	1.44
1945	...	24	..	31	...	55	3.01
1946	...	27	...	21	...	48	1.68
1947	...	23	...	18	...	41	1.42
1948	...	20	...	21	...	41	1.39
1949	...	27	...	23	...	50	1.68
1950	...	28	..	18	...	46	1.51
1951	...	44	...	15	...	59	1.89
1952	...	30	..	24	...	54	1.74
1953	...	31	...	28	...	59	1.91
1954	...	34	...	24	...	58	1.87

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided. Cancer in the early stages practically never causes pain.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the larger clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Of the 58 deaths due to cancer 13 were to cancer of stomach and duodenum (a site usually often attacked) and 9 to cancer of the lung.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1954 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site			Males—Ages	Females—Ages
Stomach	...	...	33. 56. 56. 57. 63, 70. 70. 75. 76. 79.	53. 56. 82.
Bladder	...	...	47. 64. 68. 86. 86.	74.
Rectum	...	...	48. 76.	
Lungs	...	...	51. 64. 67. 76. 77. 78.	59. 59. 60.
Colon	...	...	74.	57. 40.
Breast	...	...		44. 57. 63. 88. 89.
Pancreas	...	...	75.	
Uterus	...	...		55. 72. 73. 82.
Prostate	...	...	72. 72. 77.	
Liver	...	...	81. 56. 60. 68.	59. 74. 78.
Tongue	...	...		71.
Brow				71.
Oesphagus			62. 67. 84.	71.



## General Provision of Health Services in the Area

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### Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(see commencement of this report.)

The National Health Service Act which came into force on 5th July, 1948, made a certain difference in the administration of Health Services in County Districts. The chief points so far as this area is concerned are the transfer of (a) the Isolation Hospital to the Northern Regional Hospital Board, (b) the ambulance service to the County Council as the Local Health Authority, (c) the entire responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation to the County Council. The County Council are also now responsible for the provision of nursing in the home. District nurses are employed by the County Council, but there is a very close liaison between the old County Nursing Association and the County Council in providing this service.

### Ambulance Facilities

The National Coal Board continued to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Other cases of accident or illness have been the responsibility of the County and the headquarters for this ambulance region of the County—covering Houghton-le-Spring, Hetton-le-Hole, West Rainton and the part of Sunderland Rural District south of the Wear—were placed at the Ambulance Station at Herrington Burn. The number of patients carried and the mileage covered has increased considerably every month. The increase has largely been on the number of sitting cases, quite a number of whom could, and previously did, travel by ordinary conveyance, and there are occasional gross abuses of the Service which are difficult to prevent.

### Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.

Diphtheria Immunisation of children under five years of age has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1st January, 1946, and from that date the work was done under the auspices of



the County District Councils, the County Council paying the cost thereof. The County District Councils remained responsible for the treatment of the 5-15 years group until 5th July, 1948, when that also passed to the County Council.

Whilst appreciating that this change was necessary we feel that some of the local enthusiasm has been lost and that there is probably increased apathy on the part of the public who know diphtheria is not so common as ten years ago and that deaths therefrom are not so numerous. This can be maintained only by having a large number, preferably 75 per cent, of the children under 15 years properly protected.

A considerable amount of periodical propaganda is necessary, more especially in the case of school children who have not been previously treated, and emphasising the importance of a reinforcing dose where a child has had previous treatment.

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the four quarters of 1954 also the number of reinforcing injections for which records were received.

	Under 5		5-14		Total	Reinforcement		
1st Quarter	...	46	..	1	...	47	...	18
2nd Quarter	...	110	...	4	...	114	...	26
3rd Quarter	...	23	...	—	...	23	...	6
4th Quarter	...	79	...	4	...	83	...	17
<hr/>								
	258	...	9	...	267	...	67	

Vaccination, which is no longer compulsory, has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1930 through its "Public Vaccinators." Previous to 5th July, 1948, there was no exact record of the work done.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated and revaccinated, for which records were received, during the four quarters of 1954.

1954	VACCINATED.					REVACCINATED.				
	Under 1 year	1—4	5—14	15 years & over	Total	Under 1 year	1—4	5—14	15 years & over	Total
1st Qtr. ...	13	—	—	4	17	—	—	—	2	2
2nd Qtr. ...	29	2	2	2	35	—	—	—	3	3
3rd Qtr. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4th Qtr. ...	19	2	—	3	24	—	—	—	3	3
	61	4	2	9	76	—	—	—	8	8

This total cannot be regarded as satisfactory for in these days of air travel there is a constant danger of passengers arriving from the East in the incubation stage of smallpox and spreading the disease before they know that they are suffering from it.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

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### Water Supply

(1) The water supply in the Urban District was satisfactory generally, both in quality and quantity. Work on the water boosting scheme is now in hand, this will result in an improvement in the supply to the race-course area of the town.

(2) Bacteriological examinations were made monthly and the results were very satisfactory. Samples were taken from both sources of supply, Houghton Colliery Standage Tank and the intake at the reservoir from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's bulk supply. Samples were also taken of the mixed water, as supplied to the town.

(3) and (4) The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and no counter measures were taken.

(5) Water is supplied to all houses through the area. There are no stand pipes in use.

### Housing

The number of houses in course of erection on the 31st December, 1954, was as follows:—

Council Houses	...	...	...	156
Private Houses	...	...	...	11

### Closet Accommodation

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1954 was as follows:

Water Closets	...	...	...	9,728
Ash Closets	...	...	...	20
Privy Middens	...	...	...	2

## Refuse Collection and Disposal

The number of premises from which refuse is collected is approximately 9,668. These are divided into 8 districts of about 1,200 to 1,300 houses each, quite a number of which are dual tenancies. Each team consists of a driver and two fillers but the ever increasing number of new houses on Council Housing Estates where the layout necessitates the addition of 50 to 60 yards' travel by the filler to collect and return his bins has meant that some teams are now unable to cope with the number of houses on the estates and a spare filler has to be employed two or three days a week in order that the collections are kept in hand. The foreman undertakes the collection of kitchen waste and most of the trade refuse in addition to his other duties. The present estimated cost is 34/3 per house per annum against a pre-war cost of 15/- per house per annum. There has been a large increase in the incidence of sickness this year, being 131 weeks' time lost as compared with 117 weeks' time lost in 1953. It should be stated, however, that in the 131 weeks lost 1 employee was absent on sick leave 52 weeks and another employee has lost 10 weeks, therefore, excluding these two employees the nett time lost is 69 weeks.

The disposal of scavenging refuse is now quite a large problem in this area. Chilton Moor and Copt Hill have now been filled in and nearing completion. The Sedgeleth tip must be extended to make provision for the Houghton and Fence Houses districts and negotiations are in progress for the acquiring of more land for this purpose. Where subsidence has taken place a small amount of scavenging refuse has been disposed of.

The main tip at Coxgreen is steadily being filled in and, unless a tip can be found near Houghton, costs and travelling time will continue to increase.

**Summary of work by the Sanitary Inspector's Department during  
the year 1954**

	No. of Inspec- tions	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Formal Notices Served	Defects remedied after Notice	Legal Proceedings and General Remarks
Housing:					
Public Health and Housing Acts ...	720	124	—	120	—
Overcrowding ...	43	15	—	15	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
Defective ...	96	72	—	96	—
Drainage ...	37	29	—	29	—
Water Supply ...	23	12	—	12	—
Food Premises ...	536	—	—	—	—
Shops Act ...	70	14	—	14	—
Dairies ...	43	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses:					
Public ...	—	—	—	—	—
Private ...	1,512	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ...	8	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	12	5	—	5	—
Factories and Workplaces ...	97	5	—	5	—
Keeping of Animals ...	18	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...	92	13	15	73	—
Offensive Accumulations ...	8	5	—	5	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	17	11	—	3	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts, 1949	145	7	—	7	—
Totals ...	3,477	312	15	384	

Ashpit-privies converted into water-closet ...	...	—
Ash-closets converted into water-closets ...	...	—
Total number of water-closets in district ...	...	9,728
Total number of ash-closets in district ...	...	20
Total number of ashpit-privies in district ...	...	2



II. Water, Food and Drugs	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	12	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ... ..	—	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ... ..	30 tons 14 cwt.	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... ..	—	Chiefly meat, Public Slaughter House
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ... ..	40	
Samples found Adulterated ... ..	—	
III. Precautions against infectious Disease		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... ..	41	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	41	
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	—	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..	—	
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..	—	
IV. General		
Number of New Houses erected during year	198	Council 187 P.E. - 11
Number of such Houses occupied during year ... ..	198	
Ash-pit privies converted into Ash-closets...	—	
Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets	—	
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ...	—	
Total number of Water-closets in district ...	9,728	
Total number of Ash-closets in district ...	20	
Total number of Ash-pit privies in district...	2	

This Council has, during the past twelve months, supplied 78 bins in default. These are a good quality galvanized ash bin.

### **Salvage of Waste Materials**

The salvage of waste paper and cardboard was well maintained and disposed of under contract to Messrs. J. Ainsworth & Co. (Bolton), Ltd. 73 tons of baled paper and cardboard were sent to these mills, the sum realized being £509 as against £69 in 1953, an increase of £440. 3½ tons of scrap tins were collected from the scavenging tips, realizing £13.

The direction of kitchen waste was in operation until July, 1954. All kitchen waste was collected and transported to Sunderland, the amount being 26 tons, realizing £101.

In July, 1954, the Kitchen Waste (Revocation) Order, 1954, came into force and you discontinued the collection of this waste from street collection bins. Collection of paper and cardboard was consequently stepped up after this date.

### **Housing Repairs**

The high cost of labour and materials still retard the work of repairs and local contractors are loth to estimate for works specified under the Housing Acts. In other cases the main cause underlying the disrepair of much privately owned property is the resultant small income derived from the rents and so many small owners who previously maintained their property well, find themselves financially unable to do so.

### **Camping Sites**

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools**

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

### **Schools**

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be generally satisfactory. Some of the older types need to be re-planned when circumstances permit.

It has never been necessary to request that a school should be closed on account of infectious disease. Speaking generally, infectious cases have been distributed throughout the district.

### **Cinemas, Public Houses, and Halls.**

There are six cinemas in the district: Fence Houses, 1; Houghton, 3; Herrington Burn, 1; New Penshaw, 1.

These and other places of public entertainment were inspected during the year with respect to sanitary arrangements and generally speaking were found satisfactory.

Licensed premises have had installed a supply of hot water, and in some cases, private bathrooms and other improvements to the sanitary accommodation were effected.

### **Eradication of the Bed Bug**

The work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with either tenants or owner. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

		Infested		Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	...	1	...	1
Number of Other Houses	...	2	...	2

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests—Pests Act, 1949**

145 cases of rat, mouse and other infestations were reported and dealt with during the year. Even though many of these reports were of a minor nature much of your Inspector's time was taken up with investigation advice and treatment. The appointment of a rodent operator should now be considered by you.

Scavenging tips were all treated periodically during the year.

# HOUSING CONDITIONS

## Housing Statistics for the Year 1954

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	919
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,068
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts ... ..	175
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	216
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	73
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	124

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	120
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

#### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—



C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, and section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	14
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936,

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—
	By Owners ... ..	—

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**Housing Improvements Act, 1949**

More advantage has been taken of this Act and improvements have been carried out to properties.

**Housing**

187 houses were completed by direct labour, 11 were built by private enterprise. The types and location of the houses are shown on the attached table 161 houses were of the traditional type and 26 were of the Unity type.



SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1954	No. of Houses erected during 1954		No. of Houses in course of erection at 31st December, 1954		TOTAL
		Perm. Prefabs.	Trad. Perm.	Perm. Prefabs.	Trad. Perm.	
Hindson's Crescent (50)	—	—	—	—	34	34
Newtown ...	82	—	—	—	—	82
North Rectory ...	60	—	—	—	—	60
Villa No. 1 and 2	246	—	—	—	—	246
Chilton Moor ...	168	—	—	—	—	168
Colliery Row ...	64	—	—	—	—	64
Hetton Road ...	308	—	—	—	—	308
Hall Lane ...	65	—	—	—	—	65
Race Course ...	466	—	53	—	80	599
Grange Estate ...	396	26	32	—	—	454
Sedgeleth ...	20	—	—	—	—	20
Hillside ...	72	—	—	—	—	72
Homelands ...	184	—	—	—	—	184
St. Aidan's ...	138	—	—	—	—	138
Park Estate ...	268	—	—	—	—	268
Station Road ...	56	—	—	—	—	56
Chandler Row ...	9	—	—	—	—	9
Chester Road Estate	276	—	—	—	—	276
New Penshaw ...	40	—	—	—	—	40
Penshaw Hill ...	96	—	—	—	—	96
Barnwell ...	484	—	76	—	42	602
Success ...	46	—	—	—	—	46
Cellar Hill Estate	248	—	—	—	—	248
		26	161	—	156	4,135

## Inspection and Supervision of Food

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### Milk Supplies

During the year 26 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and generally were found satisfactory. Samples of milk after pasteurization were also taken. The sterilizing and bottling plant of the Houghton-le-Spring Dairymen's Association situate in the Lake is working satisfactorily and practically the whole of the milk in the district is supplied in bottles or cartons. Samples of ice cream were also submitted for examination. Many small shops are now retailing ice cream which they purchase from the producer already wrapped and store in a refrigerating cabinet. Inspection of dairy farms is now undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture officials.

### Slaughter Houses

The premises of the Co-operative Society situate in Newbottle were in use under the control of the Ministry of Food until the 30th June, 1954, for the purpose of preparing carcasses for food.

This served the U.D.C. of Hetton-le-Hole as well as your own district.

A survey of slaughterhouses was carried out and of 15 premises licensed prior to the war only 8 were found reasonably passable for licences to be granted.

Newbottle and District Co-operative Society, Ltd., who continued in their own premises which had been the Central Slaughterhouse, offered slaughtering facilities for butchers who were without a slaughterhouse, but this can only continue with the good will of the society and can be regarded as temporary only.

Slaughtering accommodation in your area is quite inadequate and it is very difficult to maintain a good and high standard of hygiene. Conditions in general leave much to be desired.

Slaughtering in private slaughterhouses has been taking place seven days a week and to maintain 100% inspection your inspectors responsible for meat inspection have had to carry out their duties outside normal office hours, viz.: in the evenings, Sundays and even on Bank Holidays.

Sunday work and Bank Holiday work is objectionable but in many cases has been unavoidable.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Cattle, 2,191; cows, 589; calves, 208; sheep and lambs, 6,911; pigs, 3,589; making a total of 13,488, all of which were inspected.

The results of inspections are contained in the following tables:

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	2191	589	208	6911	3589
Number inspected ... ..	"	"	"	"	"
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	15	2	14	4	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	805	261	—	130	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	37.42	44.65	6.73	1.91	0.11
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	16	14	2	—	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	497	142	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	23.41	26.48	0.96	—	0 52

### WEIGHT CONDEMNED (in Lbs.)

	Other Diseases			T.B.		
	Carcasses	Organs	Parts	Carcasses	Organs	Parts
Cattle— excl. Cows	6,632	16,892	3,082	6,860	4,475	2,947
Cows ...	1,066	5,126	2,140	6,353	7,430	901
Calves ...	363	9	—	161	—	—
Sheep ...	259	197	—	—	—	—
Pigs ...	521	37	—	3,053	426	471
	8,841	21,261	5,222	16,427	12,331	4,319

Total weight condemned ... .. 30 tons 10 cwt.

## Food and Drugs.

### CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

There were 238 food premises in the area being:—

General Dealers	...	...	...	...	102
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	38
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	30
Butchers	...	...	...	...	28
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	11
Chemists	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	12
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	4

There is one Dairy, owned by the Houghton Dairymen's Association and the number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream only is 71, being:—

General Dealers	...	...	..	..	52
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	7
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	4
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	2
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	2
Baker and Confectioner	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocer	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	1
Colliery Canteen	...	...	...	...	1

The routine inspection and supervision of all premises dealing with food has been carried out throughout the year. In the main the standard of hygiene is good but if the general public, or rather the housewife who does the shopping, would only realise that by dealing only at premises where hygienic conditions are good then the general level among food shops and premises where such food is prepared would soon be raised to a much higher standard than now prevails, and it would soon be apparent that good hygiene is good salesmanship.

### Unsound Food

Condemned meat and offal is disposed of for the manufacture of fats, fertilisers and animal feeding stuffs, or if it is unsuitable for such purpose it is destroyed.

Meat and other foods from retail premises are surrendered to the Health Department and is crushed or destroyed and disposed of on the Council's tip.



Considerable quantities of tinned and other goods in retail shops were found on inspection to be unsound and were destroyed. These included  $33\frac{3}{4}$  lb. factory made sausage, 27 lb. pork, 19 lb. corned mutton, 37 lb. cheese, 30 lb. cooked ham, 12 lb. sliced tongue,  $51\frac{1}{4}$  lb. bacon, 2 lb. margarine, 6 lb. sponge cake, 27 lb. coconut, 5 lb. butter,  $32\frac{3}{4}$  lb. biscuits, 3 dozen snowcakes, 1 bottle mint sauce, 5 tins pease pudding, 99 tins luncheon meat, 28 tins milk, 133 tins fruit, 11 tins soup, 4 tins fish, 86 tins vegetables, 24 tins ham, 7 tins beef loaf, 6 tins beef and vegetable, 6 tins jellied veal, 3 tins frozen eggs, 7 tins steak, 12 tins baked beans, 31 tins tomatoes, 4 tins jam, 8 tins tongue, 2 tins spaghetti.

### **Shellfish**

There are no beds in the district.

### **Bakehouses**

Although a majority of the quantity of bread and flour confectionery is imported into the district quite an appreciable amount is produced in this area in large and small bakeries. The premises generally are kept in a clean and sanitary condition and attention is given to the personal hygiene of persons employed.

### **Ice Cream**

During the year 14 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and were satisfactory. Much of the ice cream consumed is imported (pre-packed) into the district and sold by small retail shops. It is the practice to insist on an electric refrigerator for storage in these cases and to ensure that the premises and personnel are clean.

### **Fried Fish Shops**

The standard of cleanliness is well maintained and in three establishments all-electric ranges have been installed with alternative coal heating. Other ranges in the district are heated by coal. In most cases the assistants serving in these establishments are provided with white overalls and caps; a condition which we have sought to have included in the regulations.

### **Shops**

The inspection of slaughtered animal carcasses at the Government Slaughterhouse has not done away with the supervision of Meat and Prepared Meat Shops in the district and it is pleasing to say that any advice given to owners to improve the standard of cleanliness and hygiene of the premises is always well-received.

The standard of cleanliness throughout the district is high, particularly in food shops, and the proprietors are usually co-operative when suggestions are made to improve conditions in the shops.



### Canteens

The various canteens in which food is prepared for schools and factories are visited during the year, and a good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

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## Factories

The following are the principal places within your district :

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. N.E.S. Co. Electrical Power Sub-Station.
4. Sunderland and District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing Works.
10. Builders Merchants.
11. Candle Making.
12. Bakeries.
13. Sugar Confectioners.
14. Clothing Factories.
15. Iron Foundry.
16. Motor Repair Shops.
17. Boot Repairs Shops.
18. Cement Blocks.
19. Packing Cases.
20. Building Works.
21. Travelling Cases.
22. Electrical Accessories.
23. Woodwork Machinery.
24. Milk Pasteurization.
25. Pickles.
26. Light Engineering Works.
27. Furriers.

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

**1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	91	97	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	4	4	—	—
Total ...	95	101	—	—

**2. Defects found**

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7):				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5	5	—	—

## Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

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During 1954 some 278 cases of infectious disease (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, a decrease of 48 compared with the number of cases during 1953.

### Scarlet Fever.

25 cases were notified as against 16 in 1953 and of these 12 were isolated in hospital.

The case incidence was 0.77 per 1,000 population.

### Diphtheria.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during 1954 as in 1953. A number of cases which were suspected of having diphtheria were removed to hospital and proved to be non-diphtheric. There were in 1954 no deaths in the district from this cause. Anti-toxin is available during office hours at the Public Health Department, Council Offices, Broadway, Houghton.

The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.00 per 1,000 population.

### Immunisation.

During 1954 258 children under 5 years of age and 9 between 5 and 15 years were immunised and 67 were given a reinforcing injection.

It is extremely desirable that 75 per cent of all children in the area should be immunised and all efforts made to increase the numbers under 5 years of age. The County Council are carrying out propaganda with this in view. The importance of a boosting injection after three or four years must also be emphasised.

At the commencement of 1946 the County Council commenced free immunisation of children under 5 years of age at the Child Welfare Clinics but parents still have the option of having their children who are under five immunised by their family doctor or by the Child Welfare Medical Officer.

### **Influenza.**

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately, on a whole, of a mild character. 7 deaths were ascribed to this during 1954 as against 7 in 1953, and 3 in 1952.

There were 8 deaths ascribed as being due to pneumonia (some influenza pneumonia) as against 10 in 1953, whilst the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 9 as against 19 in 1953 and 13 in 1952.

### **Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas.**

Measles and Whooping Cough continued to be epidemic throughout the district in 1954. In 1954 there were 173 cases of measles and 29 cases of whooping cough notified as against 256 measles and 62 whooping cough in 1953.

During the year there were no deaths due to measles or whooping cough.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infections have been spread before the diagnosis is made.



It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose, and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of a rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value.

There was 1 case of Erysipelas notified during the year, this did not require hospital treatment.

During 1953, 2 cases of erysipelas were notified.

### **Infantile Paralysis.**

During the year 1954 7 cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area.

### **School Notification of Disease**

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

### **Notifiable Disease during the year 1954**

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.



**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1954**

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever... ..	25	12	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Enteric F. (incl. Paratyphoid) ... ..	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	1	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	9	...	8
Ophthalmia neonatorum ... ..	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	173	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	29	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	5	5	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	7	5	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	249	22	8

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1954—Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward					Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.			
	At Ages—Years											Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington			Total		
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65									65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	...	1	2	1	4	15	2	...	...	...	...	...	25	9	11	2	2	1	25	12	0.77
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	9	...	...	...	2	1	9	...	...
Erysipelae	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	0.29
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	8	...	2	...	11	4	6	2	4	...	11	...	0.03
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	7	2	2	...	15	4	9	2	3	...	15	...	0.35
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	0.48
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	0.03
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	5	2	69	28	1	...	5	5	0.15
Measles	7	15	32	32	29	57	1	...	...	...	...	...	173	21	...	...	33	22	173	...	5.59
Whooping Cough	2	6	3	4	5	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	13	7	...	3	6	29	...	0.93
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	1	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	1	2	...	1	7	5	0.22
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	0.03
Totals	11	24	38	39	41	87	5	2	20	4	7	—	278	61	101	37	48	31	278	22	...

# Case Rates for Infectious Diseases—Notifications per 1,000 Population.

## Houghton Urban District.

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Smallpox	...	...	...	...	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0.77
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0.00
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	0.00
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0.03
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0.29
Measles	...	...	...	...	5.59
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0.93
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	}	0.22
Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...		

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## Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1954 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

## New Cases of Mortality during 1954.

26 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 11 males and 15 females were notified or came to notice during the year. Two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified being 1 male and 1 female.

The following table shows the notifications of Tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex, for the period 1944-1954.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1944	21	17	38	21	15	36
1945	14	9	23	22	18	40
1946	15	13	28	9	9	18
1947	14	10	24	3	4	7
1948	12	21	33	5	2	7
1949	14	21	35	2	3	5
1950	11	18	29	3	3	6
1951	18	29	47	3	5	8
1952	9	11	20	2	2	4
1953	6	10	16	—	—	—
1954	11	15	26	1	1	2

The following table shows the distribution of cases of tuberculosis notified in 1954 according to sex and wards.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		
	M	F	M	F	Totals
Houghton	4	4	...	...	8
Penshaw	1	6	1	1	9
Newbottle	2	2	...	...	4
Fence Houses	4	3	...	...	7
Herrington	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	11	15	1	1	28

The following table shows the various age-periods for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.



Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 years	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 years	5	5	1	1	—	1	—	—
35 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	11	15	1	1	5	1	—	—

The figures in the death column are from locally compiled records.

### Occupation.

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 4 were miners, 8 were housewives, 1 under school age 4 of unknown occupations, 1 a male nurse, and 1 a labourer 2 of school age, 1 an Insurance Agent 3 Factory Workers and 1 a Canteen Worker.

### Notification of Tuberculosis

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patients or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

### Examination of Sputa

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

### Housing and Tuberculosis.

There is still evidence that a number of cases of tuberculosis are housed in poor conditions and that only too frequently sufferers from the pulmonary type are not occupying their own bedroom or even bed. It is important for the sake of all the other inmates of the house as well as for the improvement of the patient's condition that every endeavour should be made to provide the patient



with his or her own bed—unshared by any—better still, a room solely for the use of the patient. I am glad to know that the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council has been sympathetic in consideration of such families who are applicants for Council houses, but even then much remains to be done by these families to use the accommodation to the best advantage.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

FAECES							SWABS (THROAT, NASAL & EAR)						SPU-TUM	
	Enteric		Dysentery		Organisms		Diphtheria (Culture)		Diphtheria (Virulence)		Organisms		Tuberculosis	
	No. of Spec	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.
1st Qr.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2nd Qr.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3rd Qr.	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
4th Qr.	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...

### Mass Radiography.

During the period 21st June to 2nd July, 1954, a mass radiography survey was carried out in the urban area, in which a total of 1512 persons, being 790 males and 722 females, were X-rayed. Of this figure 110 were recalled for a large film X-ray and only 11 of this number failed to attend.

From statistics rendered it was noted that 50 persons, 37 males and 13 females, were suffering from Non-Tuberculous conditions and 13 persons, being 9 males and 4 females, from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis.



